Support Harvest for Hunger 2018

With your support, the Harvest for Hunger campaign will provide 22 million meals for our hungry neighbors.

Too many neighbors face tough choices. Between groceries and medicine. Or between keeping the lights on one more month and keeping their children fed. To help put a meal on the table and take a tough choice off someone’s plate, get involved in the Harvest for Hunger campaign.

Start a Food + Funds Drive. You can host a food and funds drive at your workplace, school, group or other organization.

Host a Virtual Food Drive or Facebook Fundraiser. You can also support us online by hosting a Virtual Food Drive. Simply set up your drive and share it friends and family. Or, host a fundraiser on Facebook. It’s easy!

Donate. Of course, you can also give monetarily to support our goal—every $1 you give provides 4 nutritious meals. Your support makes a profound difference for families like April’s.

Questions? Contact us at 216.738.7254 or harvestforhunger@clevelandfoodbank.org.

We’d like to give a very special thanks to the Co-Chairs of Harvest for Hunger, Karen Dolan and Paul Clark, for their leadership. In addition, we want to thank the Mayor of Cleveland, Frank Jackson, and Cuyahoga County Executive, Armond Budish.

Friends of the Food Bank make a big difference

There’s no easier way to help fight hunger than by joining Friends of the Food Bank—our most committed group of donors who choose to support the Greater Cleveland Food Bank each and every month.

GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org/Spring

Setting up automatic monthly donations on your credit card saves you time and postage. And you will feel good knowing that you are helping provide a reliable resource that makes food available to local families—when it’s needed most.

Barbara worked her entire lifetime caring for her family. Thank you for caring for her.

“Barbara knows what a lifetime of hard work feels like. A Navy veteran and former EMT, she has raised three children, helped raise six grandchildren, and worked in a local lumber mill. Then, Barbara worked in a packing plant until her shoulder gave out and she was forced to retire early.

“I always took care of my kids and made sure they had everything they needed,” she says.

Now on a fixed income, Barbara also knows what it means to struggle. She lives alone in her apartment and has to make tough choices to make ends meet. Food is often the first thing she sacrifices.

“I’ve managed, but it’s hard,” Barbara says. Recently her challenges reached the point where she knew that asking for help was the only option. “The only thing in my cupboard is air,” she says.

A friend told Barbara about one of our fresh produce distributions that friends like you make possible. We met her on the day she finally came in for help. She wants you to know what a difference your support is making in her life.

“I’m honored. Thank you.” she says simply. “Now my stomach won’t growl at me because it’s not being fed.”

Barbara is a hardworking grandmother who now struggles on a fixed income. Your support of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank makes her feel honored.

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One in four children here in our community lives in a food-insecure household, unable to count on three meals a day. It’s hard to believe that here in Northeast Ohio this many of our children don’t have reliable access to food, but it is a reality for thousands.

In fact, Cleveland was recently ranked one of the top U.S. cities for the number of children living in poverty. Local parents scrimp and stretch to provide housing, childcare, clothing, and healthy meals for their families. To do this, they must make tough choices—whether to buy food or pay the rent, or purchase gas for their drive to work.

Budgets get even tighter in the coming summer months when the clients we serve can no longer rely on free and reduced price school meals to supplement the food their children need to grow and thrive.

That’s why I’m so grateful for the 2018 Harvest for Hunger campaign and the support of compassionate friends like you.

Harvest for Hunger is one of the largest food and fund drives in the United States, and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank is collaborating with three other area food banks for one important goal: provide 22 million meals across 21 Northeast Ohio Counties. Meeting this goal means we can continue to help hungry neighbors like Barbara, Bob, and April whose stories are highlighted in this issue of Food for Thought.

It’s a big goal, but one I believe we will reach thanks to your loyal and generous support. Thank you for making a profound, lasting difference in many lives, and causing fewer tough choices to have to be made here in our community.

With gratitude,

Kristin Warzocha
President & CEO
Greater Cleveland Food Bank

Facts about those you help:

- 62% have to make tough choices between food and medicine
- 44% of the clients served by the Food Bank are children or seniors
- Housing, health, and employment are the largest challenges

Because of you:

- The Food Bank will serve 3,700 more hungry children this year
- The Food Bank will serve 4,900 more seniors this year
- The Harvest for Hunger campaign will help provide 22 million meals

Your kindness has a tangible and lasting impact. Thank you!
Food for Thought
Kristin Warzocha, President & CEO

Please join us at Market at the Food Bank—our annual benefit for Harvest of Hunger. You’ll enjoy great cuisine from more than 50 of Northeast Ohio’s best restaurants & beverage purveyors. Plus, mingle with celebrity chefs, enjoy musical entertainment and bid on exciting auction items—all while helping alleviate hunger in our community.

This special, fun-filled evening will take place on Sunday, April 29 from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank’s Distribution Center.

Purchase your tickets at GreaterClevelandFoodbank.org/Market or please contact Kevin Grissinger at kgrissinger@clevelandfoodbank.org or 216-738-2139. Don’t miss this year’s annual Harvest for Hunger benefit.

For more information on the Harvest for Hunger campaign, please see page 4 in this issue of Food for Thought.

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To provide meals for their children, parents are making tough choices.

Bob and his wife were both working and making ends meet each month—until the unexpected happened. They had to take their two granddaughters into their home in Willowick, just 6-weeks and 5 years old.

Bob’s wife quit her job to care for the children and the family suddenly found themselves with half their income and twice as many mouths to feed. Now getting to the end of the month is a challenge.

“I have $37 in my checking account before I get paid again,” Bob told us at our produce distribution at Vineyard Community Church, where he and his wife have been able to get some relief. “It’s a struggle, and without the food, we’d be in some real trouble,” he says.

“It’s just humbling,” he says, when he thinks about friends like you who care so much for others. “Thank you for doing what you do to help.”

Humbled by your kindness

Bob received nutritious food at Vineyard Community Church

Your kindness has a tangible and lasting impact. Thank you!

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- 4,900 more seniors this year
- 22 million meals

Housing, health, and employment are the largest challenges

Transforming lives across Northeast Ohio

Because of you, Bob can give his grandkids the healthy meals they need to grow. Thank you!
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“I don’t make a lot of money and we have to pay rent and keep a roof over our heads. It’s really hard to buy the kids things they need. But the fresh fruits and vegetables help out.” —APRIL

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“The only thing in my cupboard is air.” —BARBARA

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